



State of Arizona
Department of Education

To: Directors and Special Education Staff

From: Maura Mall, Director of Program Support and Monitoring

Subject: Arizona Examining Practices Manual, Transition Year 2014–2015

In order for the State to have an effective system of general supervision, the system must support practices that improve outcomes for students with disabilities. As the Federal Office of Special Education Programs is moving towards results-driven accountability, Exceptional Student Services is moving to a system that focuses on examining your educational practices in ensuring quality learning and outcomes for students with disabilities. The purpose of the new system is for the State to monitor the implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) while collaborating with local education agencies (LEAs) to improve outcomes for students with disabilities. The new Examining Practices system allows schools to examine data to improve their practices and outcomes for students with disabilities and to examine their systems of practice. While procedural compliance is important, the new system does not focus strictly on procedural compliance; instead, the system's focus is on balancing procedural compliance with outcomes for students with disabilities.

The 2014–2015 school year will be a year in which we transition from our current monitoring system to the new Examining Practices system of general supervision. During the transition, we will continue to conduct activities to satisfy the requirements of the IDEA, but the new system will be primarily data-driven. Your assigned program specialist will work with you to explain the system and to help you analyze data and develop or enhance your own internal supervision system for compliant paperwork.

This guide describes the requirements for each of the major components in special education. You are free to make copies of this guide so that staff members are aware of these requirements. In addition, use the guide as a resource as you develop your own system of internal supervision. The guide is also available on the Arizona Department of Education web page: azed.gov/special-education/program-support-monitoring/. If you have any questions, please contact the program specialist for your school, district, or charter.

